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Bulletin distributed
By Dr. Kehoe
3/21/62

Dear Bob:

In a recent Health and Safety Bulletin which I sent out to our members, a copy of which I am enclosing for your information, we discussed briefly childhood lead poisoning. It so happens that the illustrative article which we sent out with the Bulletin entitled "Lead Poisoning in Philadelphia--1955-1960" uses rather prominently x-rays of the long bones in a manner that infers that such a procedure is a good diagnostic tool. In actual fact, although it is not brought out in the article, the Philadelphia Health Department checked out all cases by means of quantitative lead tests of the blood. In order not to give the impression that we recommend x-rays of the long bone as a routine diagnostic procedure, I think I should send out a supplement to this bulletin pointing out and stressing the modern methods of diagnosis available to the physician.

For use in our supplementary bulletin, could you give me an expression of opinion regarding the routine use of bone x-rays either as a diagnostic aid or as the diagnostic criterion for children's lead poisoning? It is my impression that the use of x-rays for diagnosing lead poisoning has been performed mostly by pediatricians who have little knowledge of lead toxicology and who therefore tend to rely on a tool which they already have in their possession. I would very much appreciate hearing from you in this regard.

I have another question which concerns a statement which I have been unable to trace thus far but which you may already have located. In the February 1962 issue of MINING ENGINEERING, a Professor Harry V. Warren (geology) is quoted as saying, among other things, that a study was made of the death rate from cancer in two adjacent communities in England; and in one community cancer accounted for 46.7% of all deaths, while in the other community only 14.3% of deaths were from cancer. The only difference between the two communities was that the water supply for the one having the high cancer death rate contained an abnormally high amount of lead. Have you by any chance heard of this study?

Thanks very much for your help in these matters.

Very truly yours,

Don F

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